

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 were pending in the application prior to the present amendment. Claims 4, 7-8, 15, 18-21, 26, 28-36, 38, 40-44 and 46-48 are herein cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 16, 25, 27, 37 and 45 are herein amended. Claims 49-70 are new. Therefore, Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22-25, 27, 37, 39, 45 and 49-70 will be pending in the application after entry of the present amendment.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 12 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Furukawa et al. (USPN 5,757,871). Claims 25 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Byers (USPN 5,959, 996). Claims 2-3 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over Furukawa et al. in view of Adams et al. (USPN 5,761,424). Claims 26, 27, 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Byers. Claims 33 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over Byers in view of Furukawa et al.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. However, in order to expedite the application towards allowance, Applicant has amended the claims to the include subject matter that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Specifically, claims 4-8, 15-19, 21-24, 28-32, 34-36, 40-44 and 46-48 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the features of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant has made the following claim amendments and claim additions:

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of former Claim 4.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of former Claim 15.

Claim 25 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that of former Claims 26 and 28.

Claim 37 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that of former Claims 38 and 40.

New Claim 49 includes the subject matter of former Claims 1 and 7.

New Claim 51 includes the subject matter of former Claims 12 and 18.

New Claim 53 includes the subject matter of former Claims 12, 20 and 21.

New Claim 54 includes the subject matter of former Claims 12 and 22.

New Claim 57 includes the subject matter of former Claims 25 and 29.

New Claim 60 includes the subject matter of former Claims 25 and 32.

New Claim 61 includes the subject matter of former Claims 25, 33 and 34.

New Claim 64 includes the subject matter of former Claims 37 and 41.

New Claim 67 includes the subject matter of former Claims 37 and 44.

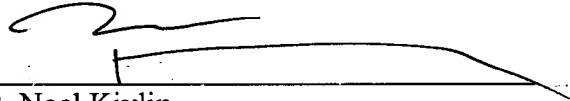
New Claim 68 includes the subject matter of former Claims 37, 45 and 46.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5957-41400/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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BNK/MKB